



Sunny And Cool

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Survey Hints Midwest Economy May Be Improving

By The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — A big jump in new orders suggests the economy is improving in nine Midwest and Plains states, but it's too soon to say whether that trend will continue, according to a monthly survey released Monday.

The overall economic index for the region increased to 58.2 in March from February's 53.1. Creighton University economist Ernie Goss said the increase is encouraging because any score above 50 suggests growth.

"This is the largest one-month jump that we have recorded since January 2012. However, we will have to record several consecutive months of readings like this to be confident that the regional economy is picking up steam."

ERNIE GOSS

New orders were the biggest factor in the overall index's improvement, soaring to 65.4 in March from February's 55, Goss said.

The survey of business leaders and supply managers uses a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth while a score below 50 suggests decline for that factor.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The employment index for the region grew to 56.3 in March from February's 51.6, suggesting that hiring was picking up. But Goss said the rate of hiring varies greatly across the region, with North Dakota leading the way with 5 percent job growth thanks to its oil boom. Arkansas had the slowest hiring with a growth rate of 0.2 percent.

SURVEY | PAGE 11

YANKTON DAILY PRESS & DAKOTAN

Ruling Forces Changes With Yankton Transit



Sacred Heart School eighth grader Kendra Hunhoff displays the silver cup that she won as national champion in her division of the National Field Archery Association (NFAA) indoor contest in Louisville, Ky. The 14-year-old daughter of Jeff and Meredith Hunhoff, who took up archery only 18 months ago, has set her sights on the Summer Olympics.

Hunhoff Hits National Target

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of two stories looking at the recent success of local archers on the state and national stages.

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Nearly 18 months ago, Kendra Hunhoff took up archery for fun.

"I started with the summer beginning class to get introduced to the sport," she said. "I wanted to learn more about archery."

A few weeks later, the Yankton teenager was competing in National Field Archery Association (NFAA) tournaments. She quickly ascended up the national ranks, eventually winning runner-up honors at the NFAA Indoor National Tournament.

This year, she was right on target by winning her

division of the national tournament — and she's not even in high school yet.

The 14-year-old Hunhoff, an eighth grader at Sacred Heart School in Yankton, shows the maturity and poise of someone much older. The self-assurance has paid off handsomely, as she has already established herself as one of the nation's top archers.

She hit the bull's-eye by recently winning the national NFAA indoor meet in the youth female freestyle limited recurve/longbow division. The competition drew hundreds of professional and amateur archers to the Downtown Convention Center in Louisville, Ky.

"Last year, I was happy just to be at nationals. I had been shooting for only six months," she said. "When I got to the nationals, I didn't know what to

ARCHER | PAGE 5

Agency Can No Longer Provide Exclusive Busing For Students

BY NATHAN JOHNSON

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A recent Federal Transit Administration (FTA) ruling has found that Yankton Transit was improperly providing exclusive school bus service to young student riders, and beginning this week the local agency is implementing changes to become compliant with federal law.

However, some parents of those student passengers believe the adjustments eliminate safety measures that were previously in place and have chosen to no longer use Yankton Transit.

"We've had lines of upset parents at our office," said Velda Bentson, the director of Yankton Transit.

Parents in the community contract with the agency to transport more than 200 students to and from school at \$2 per ride.

After providing a \$50 deposit and filling out an enrollment form, parents are billed monthly based on how many times their child rides a Yankton Transit bus.

Previously, the buses going to and from schools carried only other students.

Because of the FTA order, Yankton Transit can no longer guarantee that protection, and members of the general public may now be on those buses, too.

Yankton Transit provides transportation services to individuals from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays when an appointment is made at least 24 hours in advance. It is administered by ROCS, a private non-profit community action partnership agency located in Lake Andes.

A portion of Yankton Transit's funding is provided by the City of Yankton.

FTA RULES AGAINST YANKTON TRANSIT

In February 2011, the National School Transportation Association (NSTA) filed a complaint with the FTA alleging that Yankton Transit was operating an exclusive school bus service not open to the public, which is a violation of the rules for FTA-funded agencies.

Yankton Transit responded in April 2011 that it was not in violation because its buses were not covered under the regulation. Yankton is not an urban area and that the bus service was not exclusive.

"If a non-student were to schedule a ride during the times when students were riding, we simply schedule them on a different vehicle," Yankton Transit said in the response. "We do not deny any riders at any time of the day. We currently choose to not mix school children with the general public for scheduling and routing reasons. We have the vehicles and drivers to be able to do this."

In examining the Yankton Transit arguments, the FTA was unswayed. It found that the type of buses used are irrelevant to the application of services.

RULING | PAGE 3

Local Pheasants Forever Prepares For Banquet

BY ANDREW ATWAL
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The Yankton chapter of Pheasants Forever has spent more than \$880,000 during its existence to acquire land the public can use for hunting — and it's always looking for more.

"There was very little public space available for hunting in the Yankton area 20 years ago," said Ron Pesek, habitat chairman of the chapter. "We work with government agencies to help in getting more land available for hunting. Over the years, we've developed more than 1,300 acres within 40 miles of Yankton to be used for hunting."

Pheasants Forever will hold its annual fundraiser on Saturday at Minervas in hopes of raising more money to be used to get land for hunting and to support land owners who leave their grasslands and food plots undisturbed during the winter.



Todd VanMaanen (left), along with his father Phil (center) and Rick Kuchta (right) are shown following a day of pheasant hunting near Roscoe. The Pheasants Forever Yankton chapter seeks to promote hunting in the area, and aims to raise money at a fundraiser Saturday at Minervas.

"The maximum payment we give to those landowners is \$300," Pesek said. "This equals around \$10,000 a year we spend on that, which really isn't a lot of money. However, it does help those landowners cover their costs."

BANQUET | PAGE 7

Decision 2013

Ferdig: I'll Speak For 'Common Man'

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of our series of profiles on the seven candidates for the Yankton City Commission. The election is April 9.

Name: Chris Ferdig
Family: Wife: Libby Ferdig; Daughters: Jenna, Isabelle, Presley; Grandson: Braxton
Occupation: Owner/operator of Ferdig's Transmissions and Exhaust
Website: www.chris4com-mish.com, www.ferdigstransmissions.com

1. Why do you want to be a city commissioner?

I want to be a city commissioner as a way to pay back this community that has so graciously supported my business and in turn my family, over the



Ferdig

want to, and am willing to, fight for what is right for you, your families, and for our community.

2. The city is investigating the potential for approximately \$28 million in up-grades to its water treatment and water intake facilities. What are your thoughts on this process so far, and what would be the best way to go

about funding such a large investment

The biggest problem I see is the disconnect between HDR/city staff/City Commission's findings (which I feel are valid) and the perception of the citizens of Yankton. I feel a better job needs to be done in providing more detailed information the public especially on issues of this caliber. To me, the financing is the biggest issue. I would hope there would be some grant money available or some creative financing to limit the unavoidable rate increase but that is yet to be determined. I do feel that if we must absorb the whole cost in rate increases (up to 60 percent) we need to consider restructuring

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